

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Ward Calls CERC Report a ‘Wakeup Call’ for Job Creation



HARTFORD – House Minority Leader Rep. Robert M. Ward called an economic report released today “proof positive” that the state must cut the cost of business here or face the certainty that Connecticut will continue to lag in job growth and shed population.

The Connecticut Economic Resource Center, CERC, report details the state’s difficulty in promoting job creation over the last 15 years. Ward said high taxes and the Democratic-controlled legislature’s anti-business attitude over that time are the reasons why trails other states and is losing its competitive edge in attracting companies.

“The combination of knee-jerk anti-business approach, unchecked spending and ever higher taxes, intertwined with the two national recessions of the 1990s produced a toxic climate that retarded job growth,” Ward said. “Instead of looking at ways to curtail spending and promote job growth we have spent.”

He added, “Other states that have kept taxes relatively low and reigned in the costs of doing business have added population and added lots of jobs. It’s a simple equation.”

The CERC report should serve finally as a wakeup call to the legislature to address the root causes of slow job growth and anemic economic activity compared to other regions of the country, Ward said.

Ward noted that in the last three years, for example, tax increases will cost taxpayers more than \$1 billion. The corporate surcharge, succession tax and nursing home tax will cost another \$400 million in just one year. The recessions and stagnant job growth had very tangible effect, Ward said. “We lost a congressional seat,” he said.

Ward said that those who create jobs factor all these costs into their strategic planning. He said the CERC report should help set out a clear path to re-order priorities and establish stronger economic development goals.